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Journal - Office of Legislative Counsel
Wednesday - 2 June 1971

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12. [] Met with Ed Braswell and Jack Ticer, of the Senate Armed Services Committee staff, and delivered a revised version of copies of papers dealing with the legal position of our operations in Laos which had been given them earlier.

Braswell said we should be prepared for a rough time when the Defense authorization bill reaches the floor this year. He said the whole question of legality of the war in Indochina would undoubtedly be brought up, and various bills and amendments would be introduced to restrict the Administration's freedom of action in conducting this war. Braswell thinks that legislation to forbid further Agency support of the Meo tribes has a chance of passing.

Braswell said Chairman Stennis was particularly concerned to get some authoritative statement from the Administration as to U.S. policy and objectives in Indochina. Without this, said Braswell, it was impossible for Stennis to know what new bills and amendments would represent a threat to the achievement of these objectives. Braswell said it was impossible to expect Stennis to defend the Administration's position without knowing what that position was. I told him this was a national policy question which CIA was in no position to speak to.

I explained to Braswell the Director's desire to meet with Chairman Stennis in the near future and review with him the history of our relations with the Congress, and particularly the Foreign Relations Committee and Senators Symington (D., Mo.) and Fulbright (D., Ark.), regarding our operations in Laos. I called attention to the Spencer Rich article in the 29 May Washington Post indicating Symington plans to call for a secret session of the Senate to review the sad story of the war in Laos. Braswell said that in view of the Chairman's schedule he thought next week would be better than this week for such a meeting. He said it would be very helpful if the Director would provide the Chairman with an aide-memoire at that time summarizing the main points he would like to leave with the Chairman.

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13. [] Talked with Mr. Frank Stout, of the Alderson Reporting Company, and told him that the briefing of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee was scheduled for Friday, 11 June. I told him he would undoubtedly be hearing from the Committee on this but as of now Mr. Woodruff is planning to have a transcript.

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